

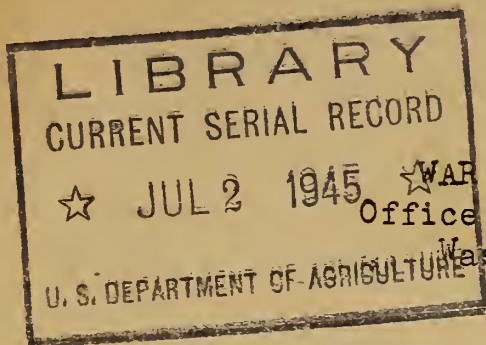
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May 10, 1945

MARKET NEWS AND GRADING DIVISION MEMORANDUM NO. GM-38

To: All Meat Grading Offices

From: Fred J. Beard, Chief, Market News and Grading Division  
Livestock and Meats Branch

Subject: Reaffirmation of Instructions on Grading Ovine Carcasses  
Issued by Webster, May 23, 1944 and Wheeler, June 23, 1944

Various age group classifications of ovines are defined as follows:

A Lamb is a young ovine animal which has not acquired its first pair of permanent teeth, and therefore carries a full set of lamb teeth.

A Yearling is a young sheep which has shed one or two of its lamb teeth.

sheep  
A Mutton is an ovine animal which has shed three or more of its lamb teeth.

Packers may exercise option of mouthing or physical characteristics as basis for classifying ovine carcasses.

Where mouthing option is exercised, all must be mouthed and certified for class and mouthing spot-checked by graders.

Ovine carcasses that have not been mouthed shall be classified and graded on basis of carcass characteristics. If they have been mouthed, they should be classified on the basis of age group indicated by teeth and graded within such classification, even though carcass characteristics may be inconsistent with the teeth, provided no spool-jointed carcasses are to be classed as lambs.

*Fred J. Beard*

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